

**NEWS RELEASE from**

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## **PRESIDENT BUSH SIGNS BILL TO RENAME LOCAL POST OFFICE AFTER FALLEN POLICE OFFICER**

[WASHINGTON, D.C.] Today, Congressman Bill Lipinski announced that President Bush signed H.R. 825 into law, a bill sponsored by Lipinski to rename the Moraine Valley Post Office after Michael J. Healy, a slain Postal Police Officer from Hometown, Illinois.

On June 21<sup>st</sup> 1981, Michael J. Healy was slain in a foiled armed robbery attempt outside Chicago's Main Post Office. Healy, a 26-year old Postal Police Officer with the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, was the first uniformed officer ever to be killed in the line of duty. Since the Postal Inspection Service was established in 1772, only nine employees have died in the line of duty.

In 2001, the Fraternal Order of Police, National Labor Council #2 met in Chicago to commemorate the passing of their fallen comrade. After the meeting, the Fraternal Order of Police contacted Congressman Lipinski's office to explore a permanent memorial for Healy's ultimate sacrifice.

Lipinski stated: "Together, we felt that renaming a post office near Healy's 'home town' would be an appropriate honor. In addition, after letters containing anthrax spores were sent to several Congressional Offices in October 2001, I thought this was a good opportunity for the entire Congress to formally recognize the important role of the Postal Inspection Service, and our letter carriers."

There are approximately 1,900 Postal Police Officers and Inspectors in the United States. About 150 Postal Police Officers and Inspectors work in the Chicago area.

Lipinski continued: "Today, United States postal workers are on the front lines of the War on Terror. H.R. 825 was a small way to recognize the personal risks these federal workers accept, and to pay tribute to Michael Healy and his family in Hometown."

On March 26<sup>th</sup>, H.R. 825 passed the House of Representatives. Senator Richard Durbin (D-IL) introduced an identical bill in the Senate, which passed on June 25<sup>th</sup>. On July 14<sup>th</sup>, President Bush's signature made H.R. 825 the 46<sup>th</sup> piece of federal legislation to become law this year. As a result, the Moraine Valley Post Office in Bridgeview will be renamed the "Michael J. Healy Post Office Building."

Details are being finalized between Lipinski and the White House to give Joan Healy, Michael's mother, the pen used by President Bush to sign H.R. 825 into law.

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